

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC CITES CLERKS FOR SELLING ALCOHOL TO MINORS

CITY OF LA VERNE – Investigators of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) El Monte District Office conducted a compliance check operation in which minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, attempted to purchase alcohol from retail licensees in the City of La Verne, California. Out of a total of 18 locations, two clerks sold alcohol to the minor decoy.

Those who sell to the minor face criminal charges that include a minimum fine of \$250.00 and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first offense. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the business' liquor license. That may include a fine; suspension or the permanent revocation of the license.

The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control is taking a pro-active approach that reduces the risks of young people under 21 years of age.. Young people have a higher rate of drunk driving fatalities than the general adult population. The minor decoy program is an effective law enforcement tool that generates public safety and awareness. ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors

Minor Decoy Operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. When the program first began, the violation rate of retail establishments selling to minors was as high as 40 to 50 percent. When conducted on a routine basis, the rate has dropped in some cities as low as 10 percent or even below. The latest violation rate state-wide is almost 24 percent, or nearly one in five retail licensees selling to minors.

In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that liquor licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Sunne Wright McPeak, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.

